



STATE OF GEORGIA

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Sonny Perdue**  
**GOVERNOR**

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**Governor Perdue Announces Land Conservation Grants, Loans**

*Rockdale and Bibb Counties, Cities of Roberta and East Ellijay Receive Awards*

ATLANTA – Governor Sonny Perdue announced today two cities and two counties as recipients of Georgia Land Conservation Grants and Loans. Rockdale and Bibb Counties and the cities of Roberta and East Ellijay will receive land conservation grants. Bibb County was also approved for a land conservation loan. Individual grant and loan amounts, as well as project descriptions are listed below.

“Conservation works best when local and state governments both have some skin in the game,” said Governor Sonny Perdue. “I’m pleased cities and counties are embracing this collaborative approach to conservation and are working to preserve local natural resources for generations to come.”

In April 2005 Governor Perdue signed into law the Georgia Land Conservation Act, an initiative to encourage the long-term conservation and protection of Georgia’s natural, cultural and historic resources. The legislation established an initial trust fund and a revolving loan fund of \$100 million in state, federal and private funding, available to local governments and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the purchase of conservation lands and conservation easements. Thus far the program has endorsed 28 projects totaling over 36,000 acres. The Governor's FY07 budget included an additional \$5 million for grants to local government land conservation projects and the Governor has proposed an additional \$50 million in the supplemental FY 07 budget for projects of statewide significance.

All land conservation grant and loan applications are reviewed collaboratively by officials from three state agencies: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), The Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA), and The State Properties Commission (SPC). According to Georgia statute, conservation lands are permanently protected lands that are undeveloped and meet one or more of the goals of the Land Conservation Act. These goals include water quality protection, flood protection, wetlands protection, reduction of erosion, protection of riparian buffers and areas that provide natural habitat and corridors for native plant and animal species, protection of prime agricultural and forestry lands, protection of cultural and historic sites, scenic protection, recreation including boating, hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting and the connection of areas contributing to these goals.

Applications for land conservation grants or loans are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. Applications can be found at [www.glcp.org](http://www.glcp.org).

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>	<b>Grant/Loan</b>
Bibb County	379	Acquisition is part of a larger Tobesofkee Creek/Ocmulgee River protection effort just south of Macon aimed at conserving a key suite of wetlands and watershed values. This property contains near pristine bottomland hardwood tupelo swamps and significant wildlife habitat very near to the city of Macon.	<b>\$517,000 grant</b> <b>\$180,000 loan</b>
Rockdale County	88 acre conservation easement; plus 63 acres in fee title	This project protects two properties at high risk of subdivision and development in a rapidly growing area. Part of the much larger Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area in Rockdale and DeKalb Counties. In partnership with the Monastery of the Holy Spirit and the Gwinnet Open Land Trust. Properties contain pine and oak-hickory forests	<b>\$900,000 grant</b>
City of Roberta	34	This project has an agricultural preservation and education focus. Located adjacent to Crawford Middle School, this farm will be preserved and converted into an agricultural learning center and conservation area and will serve as an educational site for school children. In partnership with the Future Farmers of America and local school teachers.	<b>\$165,000 grant</b>

Applicant	Acres	Project Summary	Grant/Loan
City of East Ellijay	5	Acquisition of floodplain and riparian bottomland forest along the Cartecay River within the city of East Ellijay and near the Rich Mountain Wildlife Management Area. In partnership with the Georgia Wetland Trust Fund and the Mountain Conservation Trust.	<b>\$40,000 grant</b>